

*“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21*

## Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You**

## Schedule

### The Lord's Day

#### 9:30 AM — Classes

Auditorium: *Fellowship*

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Room 17 — Young Adults Class (18-29)

#### 10:30 AM — Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

#### 2 PM Class at the Building

Hebrews (Room 13/14)

#### 5 PM (building)

Proverbs

#### Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

#### Tuesday Class: No class

*Resumes on January 7th*

#### Wednesday, 7 PM

**No Classes: Singing**

#### Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday of the month  
(see Tyler Wade)

## Information

### Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password-protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

### Children's Classes

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

# Families and Faith

There has been a lot of talk recently about whether our kids' faith will weather the storms of life after they leave home and the Folsom church. Will their faith fade when they enter the university and some charismatic professor tells them that evolution has been proved beyond a shadow of a doubt and laughs at any mention of God? Will they continue to believe in God when nearly everyone they meet thinks the notion of an omniscient, omnipresent God is old hat? How will their faith hold up if they become emotionally involved with someone who has zero interest in any kind of religion?

By all appearances, there is reason to worry. The percentage of people who do not believe in anything that fits under the heading of "religion" has grown steeply in the last few years. This is the most irreligious time in our nation's history. That lack of cultural acceptance of religion, and particularly Christianity, has taken its toll on all of us, including our young people.

However, there is some good news, if we're willing to accept it. The Bible teaches parents that they can teach their children in such a way that their faith will be strong when it is challenged later on. Way back in 1400 bc, Moses told parents how to immunize their kids against the nay-sayers that would come their way. In Deuteronomy 6:7 (repeated in 11:19), Moses says,

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Notice that the teaching here is not just *book learning*. It's not just reading Bible stories or explaining texts. There's more to it than that. The parent who is doing what Moses commands evidently has a

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close relationship with his child at all times. The point of the sitting, walking, lying down and rising up language is not to teach robotically or super-structurally. Instead, it is describing a close bond with the children that results in teaching through various means, including modeling the behavior they expect from the kids.

## Professor challenges prevailing notions about faith

*USC scientist says parents and leaders should not despair*

Vern L. Bengtson, was the Research Professor of Social Work at the University of Southern California before his passing this past November. Analyzing data from his Longitudinal Study of Generations that surveyed the religious beliefs and spirituality of more than 350 four-generation families over 35 years, Bengtson found that despite the many changes in society and family structures in American society in the past decades, there is still remarkable religious continuity between parents and children.

“There was greater parent-child similarity in terms of religion than I would have expected,” he said. “In fact, the degree of parent-child similarity has not changed in the over three-decade period of our study.” Findings in the book offer some clues as to the type of glue that can keep religious bonds strong across generations.

Appropriate modeling of religious practice by parents — preferably of the same faith — undoubtedly matters to children. If Christian parents speak about the importance of studying the Bible but never read it, then their child will see hypocrisy and turn away from their family's religion, Bengtson said. Yet what seems to matter most is the emotional quality of children's relationships with their fathers. “One of the surprises was how important the warmth of fathers is because it's so much more important than the warmth of mothers,” Bengtson said. “Ministers... are correct in saying that fathers should be an example and bring their kids to church and be a good

role model. But that's not enough. The key for fathers in faith transmission is being affirming and nurturing, not strict and authoritarian."

Not only are fathers a major influence on children, so too are grandparents. "I was very surprised by the strong role of grandparents because they're one step generationally removed from primary socialization, and in our society, the popular stereotype is that grandparents are kind of irrelevant, which they aren't," Bengtson said. "To see that in the lives of these young adults there was so much generational influence in terms of religious beliefs was intriguing and rewarding for me to see, as a grandparent myself."

He concludes, "Religious families are surprisingly successful at transmission [of religious faith]" Indeed, despite incredible stressors on the American family, they argue that, contrary to stereotype, "Parental influence has not declined since the 1970s." Here are some other facts uncovered in their research:

- Older generations view God as tangible and evident in nature, while younger generations internalize and de-objectify God.
- Mormons and Jews have higher rates of transmission (approximately 85% transmission rate).
- 63% of parents not affiliated with religion had children who were also non-affiliated.
- We assume cultural and historical forces are eroding family influence, but 60% of baby boomer parents and their children share the same religious affiliation (or non-religion).
- Familial closeness determines transmission. Depending on the religion, children are 10-20% more likely to stay in religion if they are close to their parents.
- A strong paternal bond is most important in transmitting religion.
- Cold, distant and authoritarian parenting will drastically hinder efforts to pass down religion.
- Children who leave the religious fold will likely come back to the religion as they age.

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The research has been documented and explored in **FAMILIES AND FAITH: How Religion is Passed Down Across Generations** by Bengtson and co-authors, Norella M. Putney and Susan Harris. Published by Oxford University Press.

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[Announcing...](#)

## Parenting Class Next Quarter

*"How to Address Difficult Questions and Issues with Your Children"*

Beginning on Sunday, March 1st, we will be offering a class for parents for the specific purpose of helping them deal with the many questions and issues that arise out of our ever-changing culture.

How do you answer your kids' questions about the culture: sexual and gender issues, the redefinition of marriage, the loosening of sexual mores? Even very small children are being told that it's OK to have "two mommies" or "two dads." Kids are being told that there are multiple genders and that couples living together is not only OK, but "the best option." As we speak, Netflix is airing a comedy that depicts Jesus as a gay man (the good news is that, so far, over 2 million people have signed petitions to have it removed).

How do you deal with questions about abortion, euthanasia, drug use and the many other cultural issues that will affect your children in years to come? And, of course, there are the big "apologetics" issues that need to be addressed: creation v. evolution; questions about the veracity of the Bible; questions about God's existence and his character; questions about the church and its significance, and many more.

We know that these questions can be overwhelming to parents so we are putting a team together to help you handle them. We will provide some answers to these questions but, more importantly, we will discuss *how* to approach these issues and emphasize not only *what* to do, but what *not* to do as well.

We anticipate a lot of interest in this class so, if you would like to attend, please email David Posey at [dpaulposey@mac.com](mailto:dpaulposey@mac.com) or text him at 530-558-5057 as soon as possible.